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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY SUBJECT ORIGIN	Political, Economic and Military Information: Conditions in Blagoveshchensk (127-32, 50-20) 25X1 25X1	DATE: 25X1 INFO DIST. January 1948 PAGES 2 SUPPLEMENT	
DISTRIBUTION #X STATE	WAR NAYY JUSTICE R&E C&D AAF		
25X1 Soviet Use of Japanese POV Labor 1. During the winter of the POW labor dattalion of which 25X1 member was engaged in the transportation of "war trophies" by sled and truck 25X1 across the frozen Heilung /Amur/ River from Heiho (127-31, 50-15), Nanchuria to _Flagoveshchensk/ Siberia.			
25X1	2. After completing the above transportation the battalion was split, with some of the POW's detailed to work in the fields and some to factories and mills		
25X1	Treatment and Political Indoctrination of Japanese POMs The heavy clothing worn by the POM's was taken from them during processing and they belon becase no chosning after assignment to a labor battalion. The food was extremely bad and of insufficient quantity. Malmutrition was prevalent and typhus became severe. Of the 2.000 men originally in source's POW battalion, approximately two-thirds died from a combination of malmutrition, typhus and the bitter cold.		
	No emissment was provided for the POW's, and when an attempt was made to organize a variety show it was found that gatherings of more than thirty persons were prohibited. The FOW's should "mugwort" and dried leaves, and used newspapers for cigarette paper. A hospital was opened, but there was no equipment, and the only medicines available		
were those brought by the Japanese soldiers themselves. There were few doctors, but several nurses ministered to the ill. 6. Lectures given at weekly or twice-weekly meetings of the battalion called by the Soviets included a) praise of the principles of Communism, and b) analysis of the errors of Japanese militarism, the faults of the "Zaibatsu" and the errors of Japan's politics and foreign policy.			
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Condition of the Soviet Residents of the Area

7. Food was scarce and the shortage of goods was acute; children were, for the most part, without shoes and clothing adequate to protect them from the severe cold. The residents begged constantly from Soviet soldiers passing through the city, and the POW's traded them socks and underwear for goods such as tobacco.

Equipment of Soviet Troops

8. Military equipment of Soviet troops was of poor quality. Arms carried by the Soviet soldiers appeared to be a combination of various weapons, some probably captured on the Russo-German front, of German, Japanese and Soviet make. The clothing worn by the soldiers was shabby and their shock were of rubber, which had broken and cracked.

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